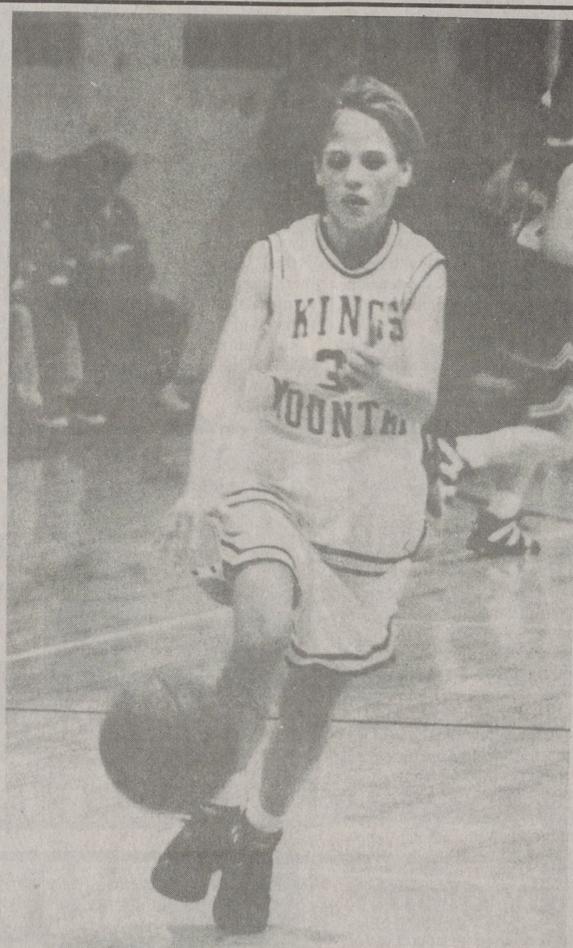


Kings Mountain's Cedric Smith (#32, left photo) and Tammie Welch (right photo) had big games despite their teams' losses in Friday night Southwestern 3-A Conference basketball action at Shelby. Smith scored 10 points to lead the Mountaineers, but without their leading



scorer Eric Tate in the lineup they fell to the Lions 69-52. Welch scored a game-high 18 points, including 14 in the fourth quarter, but a late KM comeback attempt fell short, 36-33. KM returns home Friday to face Burns.

# KM drops two to North Gaston

Kings Mountain High's varsity basketball teams hope to get back on the winning track Friday night at home when they host Burns in Southwestern 3-A Conference action.

The locals lost their second straight doubleheader - and the boys lost their third game in a row - Tuesday at North Gaston. The boys, again playing without the services of their leading scorer Eric Tate, fell 71-56 after the girls lost a hard-fought 42-41 decision.

The Mountaineers continued to get good play inside from Cedric Smith, who led the scoring with 17 points, and John Sizemore added an outside shooting touch with 11. But that wasn't enough to offset the loss of Tate's 23-point per game average and the balanced scoring

of the Wildcats. Four North Gaston players scored in double figures, with Robbie Joyner getting 14, Wallace Montgomery 13, Charles Pratt 12 and Matt Gowdle 11.

The North Gaston girls got 13 points and Miriam McLeod and 11 from Tammy Kiehl to hold off a KM upset bid. Danielle Hunter and Nicole Ingram scored 10 each for KM and Tammie Welch added seven.

### BOYS GAME

KM (56) - Sizemore 11, Turner 5, Rhodes 3, Burris 2, McCree 2, Odums 2, C. Smith 17, Jones 6, Champion 4.

NG (71) - Fields 7, Joyner 14, Guthrie 2, Summey 6, Burgess 4, Montgomery 13, Pratt 12, Gowdle 11.

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# Mounties drop pair at Shelby

Kings Mountain High's basketball teams fell to Shelby in a Southwestern 3-A Conference twinbill Friday at Shelby.

Kings Mountain's girls came from 15 points down in the fourth quarter to cut a big Shelby lead to three points, but lost 36-33 despite a game-high 18 point-effort from Tammie Welch. Welch scored 14 of her points in a 21-point KM outburst in the fourth quarter.

Kings Mountain couldn't get its offense going in the first three quarters. Tony Leigh's ladies managed only one field goal until the final minute of the first half. The

Mountaineers still managed to lead 5-4 after the first quarter but the Lions came on strong to lead 18-8 at intermission and 27-12 going into the fourth quarter.

Shelby, which improved its conference record to 3-0, got 13 points from Tasha Hopper.

Shelby's boys got off to a quick start, and Kings Mountain, playing without the services of its leading scorer Eric Tate, couldn't get its offense untracked. The result was a 69-52 win for the Lions and their new head coach, Ken Napier, the former KM Middle School mentor.

Shelby led 19-11 after the first quarter and 39-19 at halftime.

Sophomore guard Norris Hopper had a big night for the Lions with 14 points. Ronald Watkins added 13 and Cliff Washburn 12, and the duo also dominated the backboards. Cedric Smith was KM's only double-digit scorer with 10 points, and John Sizemore added nine.

Shelby improved to 2-1 in the conference and 6-8 overall, while the Mountaineers dropped to 0-2 and 3-6.

### BOYS GAME

KM (52) - C. Smith 10, Sizemore 9, M. Smith 8, Jones 6, Crocker 4, McCree 4, Turner 3, Champion 2, Odums 2, Rhodes 2, Burris 2.

S (69) - Hopper 14, Watkins 13, Washburn 12, Fullerwider 8, Hamrick 8, Scott 8, Cannon 6.

### GIRLS GAME

KM (33) - Tammie Welch 18, Tina Welch 7, Hamrick 4, Moore 3, Ingram 1.

S (36) - Hopper 13, Moore 7, Currie 6, Pass 3, Borders 2, Boulware 2, Eberhardt 2, Labon 1.

# KM-Salisbury swim meet called

Kings Mountain High's swim meet with Salisbury and South Point Wednesday at Neisler Natatorium was cancelled after five events after an upset Salisbury swimmer was disqualified and ejected from the meet.

According to Kings Mountain Coach Amy Gordon, a Salisbury swimmer who won the 200 individual medley removed his swim cap, splashing timers, and used profanity. He was disqualified in that event and suspended for the remainder of the meet for "un-sportsmanlike conduct."

However, Gordon said, his disqualification angered other Salisbury swimmers, causing "junk talking" by both Kings Mountain and Salisbury swimmers. The talking continued through the next event and referee Scott Mayse of Kings Mountain halted the match to prevent any more problems.

According to the NCHSAA handbook, players in any sport

who are ejected from a game are ineligible to compete in the following game.

Both Gordon and Salisbury Coach Gus Andrews said they supported the referee's decision.

Andrews said he didn't agree with every accusation made by Kings Mountain officials against his swimmer, but he supported the referee's decision "100 percent."

"They were basically telling me he was disqualified for un-sportsmanlike conduct when he finished the race, which is not totally unusual in high school athletics," Andrews said. "If you're un-sportsmanlike, you're disqualified. I was over on the side of the pool and didn't see what happened, but you have officials running the meet and according to them it was un-sportsmanlike conduct, and I support them 100 percent. They have very good officials, very knowledgeable people running their program."

Gordon said she did not know at this time if NCHSAA officials have been notified of the situation. She said it is Dr. Mayse's responsibility as the meet official to report the disqualification, and it is Salisbury High School's responsibility to report the ejection and suspension of its swimmer.

Kings Mountain and Salisbury have been among the most competitive 3-A swimming programs in the state for several years, and the state championship sometimes boils down between the two clubs. Kings Mountain won the state title in 1993 and 1994 but was edged out by Salisbury last year when two of KM's top swimmers were disqualified, one by a Salisbury official.

"As a result of that, we lost," said Gordon, "but it wasn't one call or the other. Both of them together cost us the points."

"I think there may be some bad blood between the two schools because they've competed so tightly in previous years. Salisbury is always really competitive. They've been coming over here for a number of years (for a non-conference meet) because they don't have a facility of their own. It's usually a really good meet for all the kids because they really swim well."

Kings Mountain was scheduled to host West Henderson and South Point in a non-conference meet yesterday. Kings Mountain and South Point will travel to R-S Central next week.

## Dream Team leads in duckpin bowling

The Dream Team defeated Bullwinkle 'n Friends 6-2 to open an eight-game lead in Mixed Duckpin Bowling League action Tuesday night at Dilling Heating.

In another match, Family Affair knocked the Antiques out of second place, 6-2.

The Dream Team now sports a 24-8 record, compared to Bullwinkle's 16-16 mark. The Antiques are 14-18 and Family Affair 10-22.

Mark Midgett's 126 line and 346 set and Chris Hullender's 111 line and 312 set led Dream Team over Bullwinkle. Robbie Hullender had a 146 line and 354 set and Chuck Ruley had a 126 line and 324 set for Bullwinkle.

R.W. Hullender's 136 line and 377 set and Debbie Hullender's 114 line and 315 set led Family Affair over the Antiques. John Dilling had a 109 line and 311 set for the Antiques.

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